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Spurling, Norman

From: Miller, Robert
Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2014 7:03 AM
To: Spurling, Norman
Cc: Panger, Melissa
Subject: FW: Loss report for barn owl in Alameda County
Attachments: P2753.pdf

Norman,

A rodenticide incident report from California.

Bob

From: McMillin, Stella@Wildlife [<mailto:Stella.McMillin@wildlife.ca.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2014 12:42 PM
To: County Ag Commissioner, Alameda; Martin, Jeanne@CDPR; Daniels, Debbie@CDPR; Bireley, Richard@CDPR; Miller, Robert
Subject: Loss report for barn owl in Alameda County

Hello, Please find attached a loss report for a barn owl in Alameda County. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me.

Thanks.

Stella

Stella McMillin
Senior Environmental Scientist
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Wildlife Investigations Laboratory
1701 Nimbus Road
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
Office 916-358-2954
Cell 916-531-9683



DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
WILDLIFE BRANCH
WILDLIFE INVESTIGATIONS LABORATORY
PESTICIDE INVESTIGATIONS
1701 NIMBUS ROAD
RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95670
PHONE (916) 358-2954

Lab Number P-2753
CAHFS No. D1400465
Necropsy N14-009

Dates of loss: January 9, 2014
Sample: Barn owl
Listing status: No special status

To: Dennis Bray,
Alameda County Agricultural Commissioner

Report Date: January 29, 2014

Remarks

Investigation of loss a barn owl in Berkeley in Alameda County.

Background

A barn owl, *Tyto albens*, was found in poor condition on Arch Street in Berkeley on January 8 and was examined at the Montclair Vet Hospital and then brought to Lindsay Wildlife Hospital. The owl appeared to have a puncture wound near its beak and dried blood was observed on its body. Blood was observed to be oozing from its feet and bruising was observed on the abdominal skin. The owl was treated with antibiotics, pain relief and anti-inflammatory medications, and fluids but died within 24 hours. The owl was submitted to CDFW Wildlife Investigations Laboratory to determine cause of death.

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION

The owl was submitted to the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory in Davis on January 11. It was found to be a female in fair nutritional condition. Subcutaneous hemorrhages were observed on the chest and thigh. Blood stains were observed in the nares. The carcass was very dry, possibly indicating dehydration. The organs appeared pale. Test for Salmonella, avian influenza, and West Nile Virus were negative. Brodifacoum was detected in liver tissue at 0.47 ppm. No other anticoagulant rodenticide was detected. Brodifacoum is a second-generation anticoagulant, registered for use only for the control of commensal rodents. Predatory and scavenging wildlife are exposed to anticoagulants often when they eat rodents and widespread exposure of raptors in California has been documented (Lima and Salmon 2010). Second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides persist in body tissue for months and it is not possible to determine the dates, frequencies, or levels of exposure from post-mortem liver concentrations. Anticoagulant rodenticides cause toxicosis by impeding blood clotting. Diagnosis of anticoagulant toxicosis requires the presence of one or more anticoagulant rodenticides and evidence of abnormal bleeding unrelated to another identifiable cause, such as trauma.

Given the subcutaneous hemorrhages and the blood observed on the feet and beak without signs of trauma and the brodifacoum detected in the liver, it is likely that the barn owl died as a result of anticoagulant rodenticide toxicosis.

WILDLIFE INVESTIGATIONS LABORATORY

Stella McMillin

**Stella McMillin, Senior Environmental Scientist
Wildlife Investigations Laboratory**

Approved

Steve C. Torres

**Steve Torres, Program Manager,
Wildlife Investigations Laboratory**

**Cc: Jeanne Martin,
DPR Enforcement**

**Rich Bireley,
DPR Registration**

**Debbie Daniels,
DPR Registration**

**Robert Miller,
USEPA**